

**REMARKS**

**I. Introduction**

Applicants add new claim 13. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application, and claims 1-12 have been examined. Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Adachi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,682,070 (hereinafter "Adachi").

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the claim rejections with Applicants' representatives on February 4, 2003.

Applicants overcome the rejection of claims 1-12 as follows.

**II. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "an intermediate connecting member distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator". In response to Applicants' assertion that Adachi fails to disclose or suggest this feature<sup>1</sup>, the Examiner alleges that Adachi clearly discloses (in lines 62-64 of col. 8), a rectifier device (17) (sic: 18), a circuit board of the AC generator (18) (sic: 17), and the intermediate connecting member (172-175) being distinct. However, Adachi expressly provides that the circuit board 17 has insert terminals 172-175 serving as junction members and a substrate 171 serving as a supporting member (Adachi: col. 8,

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<sup>1</sup> See Applicants' Amendment of October 25, 2002.

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lines 58-62). Indeed, Adachi provides that the substrate 171 of the circuit board 17 is formed **integrally** with the insert terminals 172-175 by insertion molding.

Given these discrepancies between the Examiner's characterization of Adachi and the express teachings of Adachi, an interview was held on February 4, 2003. The Examiner communicated her position as being that because the circuit board's substrate 171 is made of resin while the insert terminals 172-175 are made of metal, they are distinct. Applicants respectfully disagree with this particular position. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution and in order to further clarify that the intermediate connecting member is an independent element of the vehicle-onboard AC generator embodied in claim 1, Applicants amend claim 1 to recite "a discrete intermediate connecting member distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator". *See, e.g.*, Applicants' Fig. 4.

Adachi fails to disclose or suggest a discrete intermediate connecting member, as recited in claim 1, and therefore, Adachi fails to anticipate claim 1.

Consequently, claims 2-12 are not anticipated by Adachi at least by virtue of their dependency.

### **III. New Claim 13**

Applicants add new claim 13, which recites that "said intermediate connecting member is disposed in a recess formed in said circuit board". Claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

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#### **IV. Formal Matters**

##### *A. Priority*

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, including receipt of the priority document submitted on February 16, 2001.

##### *B. Information Disclosure Statements*

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing a signed and initialed copy of the PTO Forms submitted with the IDS filed on February 16, 2001 and the IDS filed on December 12, 2001, thereby indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

##### *C. Form PTO-892*

Applicants thank the Examiner for correcting the identified errors in the Form 892 attached to the Office Action dated July 26, 2002.

##### *D. Abstract*

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to the Abstract.

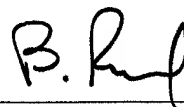
#### **V. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Carter Raulerson  
Registration No. 52,156

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: April 3, 2003

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 1 is amended as follows:**

1. (Twice Amended) A vehicle-onboard AC generator, comprising:  
  
a stator comprised of a stator core and a stator winding assembly including a plurality of stator windings;  
  
a rotor disposed in said stator core;  
  
a rectifier device for rectifying an AC power from said stator winding assembly; and  
  
~~an~~ a discrete intermediate connecting member distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator,  
  
wherein said intermediate connecting member is disposed on said stator at a position offset laterally from the center axis of the stator,  
  
wherein in said stator, a plurality of outgoing conductors forming output conductor end portions and connecting conductor end portions, respectively, are brought out substantially in parallel with a center axis of said stator core,  
  
wherein said connecting conductor end portions are connected to said intermediate connecting member, said stator windings being interconnected in a predetermined connection pattern through said intermediate connecting member, and

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wherein said output conductor end portions for outputting said AC power are connected to said rectifier device.

**Claim 13 is added as a new claim.**